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Detecting SSH bruteforce attacks using triggers in QoE

[Triggers](#) are used to search data in QoE Stor by specified parameters. When a trigger fires, one of the following actions can occur:

- notification in GUI
- HTTP action
- email delivery

Required SSG DPI options:

- [Statistics gathering and analysis on protocols and directions](#)
- [Subscriber notifications](#)

Required additional modules:

- [DPIUI2 \(GUI - Graphical User Interface\)](#)
- [Implementation and administration](#)

System trigger for detecting SSH bruteforce attacks

The trigger for detecting SSH bruteforce attacks (name — "ssh bruteforce") is a system trigger and is available in "QoE analytics" → "Triggers and notifications" (disabled by default).

General trigger information

Common			
Trigger name *	Severity	Trigger	
ssh bruteforce	Hight	▼	☐ Disabled
Days of the week *	Check frequency *	Number of positives	
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun ▼	10 minutes	▼	0
Start date	End date	Start time	End time
12/01/2024	12/31/2099	00:00	23:55

- Trigger name: "ssh bruteforce";
- Days of week — all;
- Check frequency — 10 minutes;
- Trigger activation frequency — 0;
- Start/end dates and times can be set if needed.



Every day, a check will be performed every 10 minutes according to the conditions described below.

Queries

Queries						
+						
	Query name	Report		Period from	Period to	
☒ On	A	Ssh bruteforce	▼	now - 30 minutes	now - 20 minutes	🗑

For this trigger a non-editable query is preset with the following parameters:

- Table to scan: Raw full netflow → Tables → Attacks detection → Ssh bruteforce;
- Period from: now - 30 minutes
- Period to: now - 20 minutes

Conditions

Conditions							
+							
	Bind	Query name	Function	Combinator	Serie	Operator	Value
☒ On	AND	A	avg		Session lifetir	<=	20
☒ On	AND	A	max		Sessions per	>=	1500

- Add two "+" fields
- Link - AND
- Function - avg
- Series in field 1 - session lifetime to subscriber <= 20 (ms)
- Series in field 2 - number of sessions per subscriber >= 1500



We set the trigger conditions: average duration of SSH sessions to a subscriber is less than 20 ms and the number of SSH sessions for the subscriber is greater than 1500 for the analyzed period.

Error handling



- In "If no errors" — no data

- In "If error or timeout" — save last state



With this configuration, if there are no errors, no data is saved; if errors occur, information about suspicious activity is saved.

Actions

E-mail action



- Click "</>" icon to auto-fill the form
- In the "To" field — specify the email address
- With this setup, when the trigger fires an email with the notification details (ID, trigger name, status, link to the report — saved state) will be sent to the specified address

Notification



- Click "</>" to auto-fill the form
- Select notification type — "Warning"
- This will create a notification in the SSG system

You can get a link to the report via the notifications menu

Select the notification Choose — "Details"

Follow the report link — the report will open in a new browser window.

HTTP action



Click "</>" to auto-fill the form. Choose the method most suitable for your ticket system and enter the URL.



Keep in mind — the numeric thresholds for sessions, incoming packets, etc., are given as averaged examples. Fine-tune thresholds based on your network specifics.